Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BAMAKO 02763 051659Z

67
ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 IGA-02 SR-02 ORM-03 /140 W
---------- 012423
R 051100Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7793
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS BAMAKO 2763

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: FERMINO SPENCER INSPECTS MALI DROUGHT

1. DURING A THREE DAY FIELD TRIP TO MALI'S FIFTH AND SIXTH REGIONS, AID'S FERMINO SPENCER INSPECTED NOMAD REFUGEE CAMPS IN TIMBUKTU AND GAO AND VISITED MOPTI, MALI'S MOST IMPORTANT RIVER ENTREPOT LINKING THE SUB-SAHARA WITH THE GRAIN GROWING SOUTH. SPENCER WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THOR KUNIHOLM, FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER DAN SHAUGHNESSY, TRANSPORT SPECIALIST BOB GOLDING, AND CDC NUTRITIONIST MARK LAPOINTE.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 1 THE SPENCER PARTY FLEW TO TIMBUKTU ON A U.S. C-130 FLIGHT THAT WAS HAULING U.S. SORGHUM AND EEC DRIED MILK. THEY WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT IN TIMBUKTU BY MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR, MINDEFENSE DOUKARA, WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED OVERLAND FROM GAO, 500 KILOMETERS AWAY, IN A TRUCK CONVOY SENT OUT TO SEARCH FOR STRANDED NOMADS. DOUKARA UNSHAVED AND HAGGARD AFTER HIS LONG TRIP, TOOK THE GROUP TO THE LARGE NOMAD CAMP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TIMBUKTU WHERE HE DESCRIBED
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BAMAKO 02763 051659Z

THE CAREFUL ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMP INTO 15 SECTORS AND THE SYSTEM OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED TO MORE THAN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

10,000 INHABITANTS. DOUKARA EMPHASIZED THAT ALL DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS IN MALI'S SIXTH REGION AND ELSEWHERE IN MALI WERE UNDER THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

3. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ARMY IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES WAS EVIDENT ALSO IN GAO WHERE ON SEPTEMBER 4 SPENCER INSPECTED A CAMP ABOUT HALF THE SIZE OF TIMBUKTU'S SPRAWLING TENT CAMP. MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE GAO BATALLION, THE GROUP ARRIVED AT THE CAMP AS A CHILDREN'S FOOD DISTRIBUTION WAS IN PROCESS. THREE ARMY FIELD KITCHENS WERE PREPARING POWDERED MILK GRUEL FOR THE CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN GATHERED UNDER AN OPEN-SIDED ROOFED SHELTER, PART OF SEVERAL MODERN STRUCTURES CONCEIVED FOR OTHER PURPOSES BUT NOW USED AS THE WELFARE CENTER FOR REFUGEES. AS THE PARTY WAS RETURNING TO THE AIRPORT TO REBOARD THE C-130 DISCHARGED OF ITS 15 TONS OF GRAIN (TRANSPORTED TO GAO AT A COST OF NEARLY $5,000) A MALIAN OFFICIAL POINTED TO A SHIP APPROACHING ON THE NIGER RIVER BRINGING SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF GRAIN TO GAO.

4. DAN SHAUGHNESSY ASKED DROUGHT COORDINATOR DOUKARA ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF SELLING DROUGHT RELIEF GRAIN. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE APPROVED THE GRAIN SALES TO GENERATE RELIEF FUNDS WITH THE OPTION OF FREE DISTRIBUTION TO THOSE WHO COULD NOT AFFORD TO BUY GRAIN EVEN AT THE LOW, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRICES PREVAILING IN MALI. SHAUGHNESSY OBSERVED THE GRAIN BEING OFF-LOADED AT THE AIRPORT AND SAW EVIDENCE OF GRAIN DISTRIBUTION IN BOTH CAMPS.

5. SPENCER AND HIS PARTY WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE DEDICATION OF MINISTER DOUKARA TO THE DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT, BY THE CAREFUL ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMPS UNDER ARMY SUPERVISION, AND BY THE MANY EVIDENCES OF GRAIN, MEDICINE, AND OTHER ASSISTANCE REACHING THE NOMADS IN MALI'S SIXTH REGION. UNFOR-TUNATELY THE EFFECTS

OF THE DROUGHT ARE STILL SHOCKINGLY REVEALED BY SCORES OF EMACIATED AND UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN WHO CONTINUE TO COLLECT IN GAO AND TIMBUKTU WITH THEIR PARENTS AFTER DESPERATE MONTHS OF TRYING TO SURVIVE IN THE
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

DESERT WITHOUT THEIR CATTLE. WHILE RIVER TRANSPORT HAS STARTED AND GOVERNMENT AID IS REACHING MANY OF THESE VICTIMS, MALI'S NOMADS - PERHAPS 200,000 IN NUMBER - HAVE SUFFERED TERRIBLY FROM THIS YEAR'S DROUGHT.
KUNIHOLM

UNCLASSIFIED

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAMAKO02763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730955/aaaabofc.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FERMINO SPENCER INSPECTS MALI DROUGHT
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, ML
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005